

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOBBYING INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SECRETARY OF STATE'S WEB SITE

Bismarck, N.D. ñ Want to be a lobbyist? Or, do you want to know who is lobbying the 2001 North Dakota Legislative Assembly? If so, the Secretary of State's office has an Internet site that has extensive information about the subject.

According to Secretary of State Al Jaeger, the web site has information about state laws governing lobbying and information about who is required to register as a lobbyist.

îThe most helpful information available to the public on the web site is the listings of registered lobbyists and the organizations they represent,î said Jaeger. îAccessing this information allows the public to learn who is lobbying our legislators and what interests they represent.î

As of February 8, the Secretary of State's office had registered 577 lobbyists representing 859 different organizations. This number is expected to increase as the 2001 legislative session continues.

By the end of the 1999 legislative session, Jaeger's office had registered 593 lobbyists representing 921 organizations. Lobbyist registrations for the 1999 and 2001 legislative sessions are lower than the 1997 legislative session. During that session almost 700 lobbyists were registered representing over 1,000 organizations.

Registration as a lobbyist is required of persons representing organizations or groups who attempt to secure the passage, amendment, or defeat of any legislation by the legislature or approval or veto of any bill by the governor. Private citizens appearing before the legislature on their own behalf are not required to register as lobbyists. The lobbyist registration fee is \$20 plus \$5 for each additional organization represented.

The Secretary of State's web site is located at www.state.nd.us/sec. Lobbyist information may also be accessed through the general information section of the Legislative Council web site at www.state.nd.us/lr.

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